

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks. Claim 10 remains pending. No new matter has been added in making the amendment herein.

The present application is a divisional application. Amendments similar to those presented here were made in an Amendment in a co-pending divisional application U.S. Serial No. 09/465,101. The Amendment in the '101 application was mailed to the Patent Office on April 10, 2002. The same Examiner is handling both applications.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jang (U.S. Patent No. 5,462,530). The cited reference describes a catheter system that can accommodate two guide wires. However, the system appears susceptible to the guide wires becoming crossed or wrapped or confused with one another outside the body. The element highlighted by the Examiner in FIG. 11(a) appears to comprise the distal end of a guiding catheter through which the angioplasty catheter 10 is conducted to the deployment site. As such, the guiding catheter would not serve to "retain" the guide wires 32, 33 that are extended through their respective guide wire lumens, as the term is used in the specification of the present invention, but rather, merely serves to house the catheter which in turn houses the guide wires.

Claim 10 has been amended to more concisely claim the invention to make it clear that the retaining element is disposed proximal to the catheter in order to prevent the crossing, wrapping or confusion of the two guide wires **outside** of the body (specification page 9, lines 1-

5). It is therefore respectfully submitted that the absence of such element in the cited reference precludes a finding of anticipation. Moreover, the failure of the cited reference to even recognize the existence of the problem that is solved by the present invention precludes a finding of obviousness with regard to the claimed solution thereto.


CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to the rejection set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claim allowed, and the application passed to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 10 by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES."

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John Nagy Reg. No. 30,664

JSN:JL:jeb

6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, California 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE CLAIMS

10. A method of preparing a bifurcated vessel having a bifurcation, a main vessel, and a side branch vessel, for an interventional procedure, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongated catheter;

providing a tracking guide wire and tracking guide wire lumen for receiving the tracking guide wire, the tracking guide wire lumen extending through at least a portion of the catheter;

providing an integrated guide wire and integrated guide wire lumen for receiving the integrated guide wire, the integrated guide wire lumen extending through at least a portion of the catheter;

wherein the tracking guide wire lumen and the integrated guide wire lumen run substantially parallel to each other throughout their lengths, and the tracking guide wire lumen and the integrated guide wire lumen do not move apart with respect to each other;

back loading the tracking guide wire into the tracking guide wire lumen;

advancing the catheter over the tracking guide wire to a position proximal of the bifurcation in the main vessel;

advancing the integrated guide wire through the integrated guide wire lumen and into the side vessel branch;

removing the catheter from a patient's vasculature;

providing a retaining element for retaining the tracking guide wire and the integrated guide wire in a spaced apart relationship proximal to said elongated catheter; and maintaining the position of the tracking guide wire relative to the integrated guide wire with the retaining element.